

competitively, he and his brother, Donnie, left Florida along with fellow racer Red Farmer, and settled in Hueytown, AL. These three young men became known as the "Alabama Gang," a racing fraternity that would later include Bobby's son Davey Allison and NASCAR star Neil Bonnett.

After his relocation to Alabama, Bobby garnered tremendous success on the track, winning NASCAR Modified Special Division titles in 1962 and 1963. He followed this success with consecutive NASCAR Modified Division championships in 1964 and 1965. Bobby competed in his first Sprint Cup Series race at the 1961 Daytona 500, and achieved his first Sprint Cup win 5 years later, at Oxford Plains Speedway in Maine in 1966. In his 25-year Sprint Cup career, Bobby won 83 additional races, including three Daytona 500 triumphs and four victories at Talladega Superspeedway. He is tied with Darrell Waltrip for the third most wins in Sprint Cup history. Mr. Allison is also a five-time Sprint Cup Series runner-up, winning the Cup once in 1983, when it was still known as the Winston Cup. His final win was a thrilling father-son performance at the 1988 Daytona 500, where he and his son Davey finished first and second place, respectively.

Despite his great successes, Bobby's life has included tragedy. His racing career was cut short by injuries sustained during a severe crash at Pocono Raceway months after his final win at Daytona. In 1992, his youngest son Clifford was killed while practicing for a race at Michigan International Speedway. A few months later, his older son Davey Allison was killed in a helicopter crash at Talladega.

Through both success and sorrow, Bobby has displayed remarkable perseverance and resilience. He is known and respected all around the world and many of my fellow Senators have been generous in their praise in this indomitable racer. Senator JOHN MCCAIN, a friend and admirer, said, "I couldn't be prouder of Bobby. He is an inspiration for all of us." Senator JON KYL, a NASCAR enthusiast, noted that the Phoenix International Raceway named a grandstand for Bobby and declared, "The Hall of Fame did well to recognize Bobby in its second class. He is a NASCAR legend."

Bobby and his wife Judy still reside in Hueytown, AL, and his two daughters, Bonnie Allison-Farr, and Carrie Allison, live with their families nearby. Selected as one of "The 50 Greatest NASCAR Drivers of All Time," Bobby remains one of NASCAR's most respected competitors. A truly great Alabamian, Bobby has never forgotten his roots, and he will always be remembered not just as a racer, but as a beloved citizen of our State. It truly is a privilege to honor Bobby Allison not only for his tremendous success in racing's most competitive league, but also for his contributions to both NASCAR and the State of Alabama.●

REMEMBERING KATHRYN TUCKER WINDHAM

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to honor a woman whose sparkling personality and literary voice truly captured the essence of Alabama. Kathryn Tucker Windham, a beloved storyteller, popular author, renowned photographer, and proud citizen of Alabama, passed away on June 12, 2011, at the age of 93. She lived a rich, full life, true to the highest ideals of our State. I knew her well and followed her career. In my opinion, her qualities of character, professional accomplishments, and simple decency place her at the top of all who have been products of our State.

Ms. Windham authored over two dozen books in her lifetime, giving an endearing and insightful voice to Southern culture and folklore. Her books related everything from ghost stories and memories to delicious recipes, and she developed a devoted audience in Alabama and around the United States. Ms. Windham also became a celebrated radio personality, appearing on Alabama Public Radio for over 20 years and commenting on NPR's "All Things Considered" from 1985-1987. She treated listeners nationwide to evocative tales of the South, with such titles as "Grits Is a Singular Delicacy" and "Honeysuckle Blossoms Smell Wonderful," all with a Southern accent that remained true to the highest level of culture and grammar. In addition, she was a positive force for good, constant in her efforts to promote racial reconciliation in her hometown of Selma and in her State.

Ms. Windham spent her childhood in Thomasville, AL, not too far across the river from where I grew up, and later attended Huntingdon College, my alma mater. After graduation, she began work as a police reporter for a Montgomery paper, an impressive and unusual job for a female reporter at that time. Ms. Windham developed a distinguished journalistic career, working for the Birmingham News and winning several Associated Press awards for her work with the Selma Times Journal, where she made her home for many years. Some of her best known books are Alabama: One Big Front Porch and Thirteen Alabama Ghosts and Jeffery.

Ms. Windham was also a noted photographer, and her images provide a stirring portrait of the people and places of her home State. Her photography was included in the Huntsville Museum of Art's 1989 traveling exhibit, "Alabama Landscape Photographs," and in a later show, "Encounters 24. Kathryn Tucker Windham."

Among many honors and awards, Ms. Windham was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor. This organization celebrates Alabama's best and brightest, and Ms. Windham's membership reflects her status as one of the State's beloved cultural figures and influential personalities. Ms. Windham was indeed a great Alabamian, and her work showcases the best of Alabama's

values in a way that should make every Alabamian proud.

I recently watched a video of her in her small rocking chair, telling stories. They were told superbly, with perfect timing, and I burst out laughing. She was much like my great aunts, her contemporaries, who lived not far away. The stories of this generation provided humor, history, family affection, and education to listeners. It is a time pretty much gone. Someone once said that the purest examples of a period's ideals are curiously often found in its last days. It may be Ms. Windham was the last and best practitioner of those humorous and revealing stories that are indeed works of art.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Ms. Windham's family—her son, Ben, retired as editor of the Tuscaloosa News, her daughter Dilcy, and other family and friends as they mourn the loss of their beloved mother, relative, and friend. As her Senator and as her friend, I am grateful for the extraordinary life that Kathryn Tucker Windham led, and I am honored to serve as her Senator so as to be able to pay tribute to her life as the State and the Nation mark her passing. She will be dearly missed, but her legacy will live on in the stories, artwork, and memories she left behind.●

TRIBUTE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to honor an exceptional group of law enforcement officers.

I recently met with Sheriff James Kelly of Catahoula Parish, LA, who informed me that a member of his department was conferred the 2011 National Missing Children's Special Recognition award by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Deputy Toney Edwards, of the Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office in Harrisonburg, LA, was honored along with three others involved for their outstanding work resolving the tragic case of the 12-year-old Lexis Kaye Roberts. On October 8, 2010, two hunters found the partial remains of Lexis Roberts in Catahoula Parish, LA. Deputy Edwards, along with a team dedicated to the case, was able to identify her remains. The investigation into her disappearance and death focused on a man who was last known to be in the company of the girl and her mother, who was also missing. Information about the man was distributed to truck stops throughout the country and 2 days later he was arrested in Mississippi. The man has been indicted on Federal charges of kidnapping resulting in the death of the young girl.

Others honored for their working the case were Special Agent Benjamin Walsh, Supervisory Senior Resident Agent Robert King, and Senior Special Agent Janice Mertz of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Alexandria, VA.

In 1984, John Walsh cofounded the private, nonprofit National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, NCMEC. This center serves as a focal point in providing assistance to parents, children, law enforcement, schools, and communities in recovering missing children and raising public awareness about ways to help prevent child abduction, molestation, and sexual exploitation. NCMEC has worked on more than 73,000 cases of missing and exploited children, helped recover more than 48,000 children, and raised its recovery rate from 60 percent in the 1980s to 91 percent today.

I truly enjoyed talking to Sheriff James Kelley about the work being done by both NCMEC and his own police force in Louisiana. While I have worked closely with and seen the success of the many excellent Alabama law enforcement officers, I am glad to hear of the fine work of these officers.

On behalf of my colleagues in the Senate, it is an honor to recognize them for their exemplary service.●

TRIBUTE TO ZOE COPE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Zoe Cope, an intern in my Aberdeen, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Zoe is a native of Aberdeen and a graduate of Roncalli High School. Currently, she is attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she is pursuing a degree in architecture. She is a very hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Zoe for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO GARRETT DEVRIES

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Garrett DeVries, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Garrett is a graduate of Canistota High School in Canistota, SD. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota where he is majoring in political science and history. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Garrett for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS FALK

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Nicholas Falk, an intern in my Aberdeen, SD, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Nick is a native of Aberdeen and a graduate of Roncalli High School. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota where he is majoring in history and political science. He is a very hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Nick for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO TRAVIS FITZKE

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Travis Fitzke, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past couple months.

Travis is a graduate of T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre, SD. Currently, he is attending the North Dakota State University where he is majoring in biology. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Travis for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO BLAKE GUNDERSON

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Blake Gunderson, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past couple months.

Blake is a graduate of Central Dakota Valley High School in North Sioux City, SD. Currently, he is attending the University of South Dakota where he is majoring in business administration. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Blake for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KYLE HANSON

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Kyle Hanson, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Kyle graduated from South Dakota State University with a major in communication studies. In the fall, he will be attending law school at the University of South Dakota. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kyle for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KAMARIA IVERSEN

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Kamaria Iversen, an intern

in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past couple months.

Kamaria is a graduate of Jones County High School in Murdo, SD. Currently, she is attending South Dakota State University where she is majoring in consumer affairs. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kamaria for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO GRACE KESSLER

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Grace Kessler, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Grace is a graduate of Roncalli High School in Aberdeen, SD. Currently, she is attending Hillsdale College where she is majoring in politics. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Grace for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTEN LEEDOM

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Christen Leedom, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Christen is a graduate of O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, SD. This fall, she will attend the University of South Dakota Law School. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Christen for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO ZACH NEUBERT

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Zach Neubert, an intern in my Aberdeen, SD, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Zach is a native of Aberdeen and a graduate of Central High School. Currently, he is attending the Northern State University where he is studying history and political science. He is a very hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Zach for all of the fine